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GLBT INFORMATION
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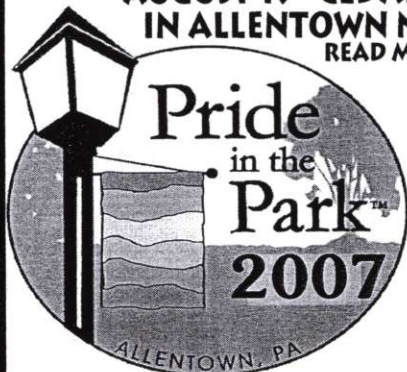
THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 10 NO. 7

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2007

THE AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER VGP ISSUES ARE COMBINED - THERE IS NO SEPARATE ISSUE FOR SEPTEMBER

**PRIDE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY'S
PRIDE IN THE PARK FESTIVAL
AUGUST 19 - CEDAR BEACH PARK
IN ALLENTOWN NOON TO 6PM
READ MORE ON PAGES 2 & 3**



**MUHLBERG
COLLEGE
CENTER FOR ETHICS
PRESENTATION
QUEER
GLOBALIZATIONS:
A
TRANSNATIONAL
LOOK OUTSIDE
THE NORMATIVE
CULTURE BY
DR. MARTIN
MANALANSAN
SEPT. 11 7PM
READ MORE ON PAGE 2.**

The 22nd

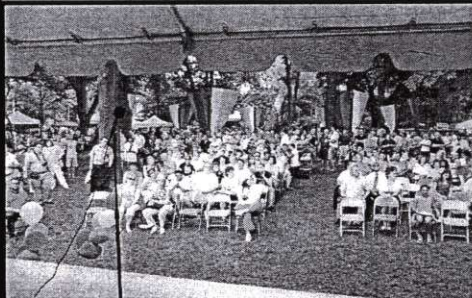
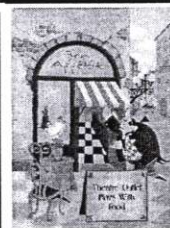
Sunday, September 9th, 2007



**READ ALL ABOUT THE FACT SUMMER GAMES
ON VGP PAGE 9 & AT: WWW.FACTLV.ORG**

T.O. COOKBOOK RELEASED

"Theatre Outlet Plays With Food" (\$19.95 + \$5.95 shipping) was created by Theatre Outlet fundraising chair Phil Healing of FoodWorks, select caterer to many Theatre Outlet soirees. The colorful, hardcover collection includes recipes by top area chefs, including Chef Mike Adams of The Farmhouse, winner of the 2007 Pennsylvania PA Preferred Best Chef of Pennsylvania competition. The book includes recipes from friends, family, and supporters, from local favorite restaurants - and from all over the world. To purchase, log onto <http://www.theatreoutlet.org> or order by phone: 610-820-9270.



Damien Roberts (left) collects signatures for Civil Rights Bill support. Rev. Beth Goudy of MCCLV performs a commitment ceremony on stage (right).

Geri Farley (left) with partner Terry Farley (At right) - Rich Spangler and Henry Prusky at the check in.

**READING PRIDE FESTIVAL ATTENDED BY 1500!
SEE AN ALBUM OF FESTIVAL PHOTOS AT THE PDN WEB SITE
AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG. AND WHILE YOU'RE THERE CHECK OUT THE
RESOURCE SECTION - FEATURING OVER 275 GLBT FRIENDLY RESOURCES.**

OMICROM PLAY

"The Nature Line," by Justin Lee will be presented at Civic Theatre in Allentown from August 16 to 26. Read more on page 3.

THE PDN PHOTO PROJECT NOW INCLUDES 188 COUPLES!

The PDN Photo Project - 150 Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality added 34 couples at the Reading Pride Festival. Project creator Liz Bradbury anticipates changing the name of the project to 200 by the end of August. Read more on page 5.

GLBT Infoline
Greater Lehigh Valley

610-HELP-123

(610-435-7123)

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.



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SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



DISCO MASS

I think I wrote in an earlier issue that in the month of June all kinds of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender opportunities present themselves. I was reading one of the gay newspapers when an ad for a Disco Mass got my eye. Intrigued, I made a plan to go to St. Marks in the Bowery to check this out.

St. Marks has some history. Completed and consecrated in 1799, Peter Stuyvesant is interred in a vault under the chapel. The church is VERY progressive. When the 2004 Republican national convention came to town St. Mark's hosted the National Anarchist Movement and permitted its members to encamp in its adjoining park.

I showed up at this Episcopal church and the DJ was already playing "I'm Coming Out" as a prelude. I thought Peter Stuyvesant must be rolling in his grave. Even I thought this is going to be hokey. But as the Mass progressed I really got into it. We sang "You've Got the Best of My Love". Then a wonderful soloist sang "People All Over The World, Join Hands". Start A Love train! Love Train! It made me think about this song in a way I never thought of before.

Great sermon by a Father John Denaro. He started off very tongue in cheek, quoting from the Gospel According to Disco. Maybe Jesus and the apostles did from time to time get down and boogie. At last he did get serious and say in reality all disco could do for us was give a temporary respite from a loud and often hostile world. Disco can't end racism or homophobia. It can't protect the environment or stop the fighting in the Middle East or Darfur. We have to do that.

For the offertory, instead of music a parishioner who witnessed the Stonewall Riots read an account of what he saw. He said he started the day stopping to pay his respects to Judy Garland at the Frank Campbell Mortuary. Then he said he just started walking in a daze and ended up on Christopher Street. He heard a commotion, hid behind a mail box and watched history unfold.

After Mass everyone was invited to a picnic under six very large scyambres in the church's private garden. The weather was perfect. All in all, it was a very nice day.

PRIDE VENDOR PACKET

Vendor packets are available now for Pride in the Park 2007. This is a great opportunity for your organization or business to distribute information, sell merchandise or food and be a part of the largest Pride festival in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Vendor packets include all information that you need. Deadline for registration is August 10, 2007! Contact sbausher@prideglv.org or call 610-770-6200. Include your business name, address and contact number.

There are also sponsorship opportunities available for Pride in the Park. If your business is interested in being a Pride in the Park sponsor, please contact sbausher@prideglv.org for a sponsorship packet. For more information, visit Pride's website at www.prideglv.org.

GLBT DIRECTOR AT LEHIGH

Timothy Gardner, the interim director of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Services at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minn., has been named the new director of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Ally (LGBTQA) program at Lehigh University. Gardner, who officially arrived at Lehigh in mid-July, will be the first director of the program, which provides a variety of services to students, faculty and staff on the Lehigh campus.

Dear WTA Readers: PDN recently received a call from a community member seeking a referral for a pro-GLBT health professional. The current health professional the caller was using actually said, "So...you choose to be gay?" Needless to say, the caller needed someone else. Meanwhile, we at PDN had just had a call from a health professional who listed her office on the PDN web site resource list. I was able to give the caller the contact information of the professional who happened to literally be located in the same neighborhood as the caller!

The moral of this story is: If you need a pro-GLBT referral, call the PDN infoline at 610-HELP 123 - that's 610-435-7123 or scan the resource list at our web site at www.padiversity.org. There are over 275 resources listed! And if you have a pro-GLBT resource, list it. Just go to the resource list and fill out the simple form.

WTA received this property notice from a local community member. VGP will post rental notices, job notices and requests for rental and job openings from the local GLBTA community in WTA if there is space available. Top priority is given to PDN members. Just send your info to VGP@padiversity.org.

FORRENT: 533 North Lumber St. Allentown
Available immediately!!

\$1200 + utilities \$2000 deposit

Lovely Allentown end row townhouse.

Recently remodeled, features: living, dining, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath & 3rd fl studio, new ceiling fan, light fixtures, completely painted, yard, 2 car garage, covered back porch great for entertaining. Near schools, shops, restaurants, 5 minutes from route 22 & hospitals.

FORRENT: 434 North Lumber St. Allentown

Available immediately!!

\$1000 + utilities

\$2000 last month/sec

Lovely Allentown twin in Historic District. Recently remodeled, features: living, dining, kitchen, washer/dryer, 3 bedrooms, 3rd fl. studio & 1 bath, new ceiling fans and light fixtures, completely painted, new windows, yard, off & on street parking, covered back porch great for entertaining. Near schools, shops, restaurants, 5 minutes from route 22 & hospitals. Call: Maribel Nieves: 484-239-9283, for more information on either property.

QUEER GLOBALIZATIONS: A TRANSNATIONAL LOOK OUTSIDE THE NORMATIVE CULTURE

BY DR. MARTIN MANALANSAN

A PUBLIC LECTURE AT MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

To what extent does globalization encourage a taste for queer cultures? After all, queerness sells - in advertising, performance art, on the internet, and in the political discourses of human rights in emerging democracies. Does this mean, then, that the transnational circulation of peoples, identities and social movements that we call "globalization" is liberating to the extent that it incorporates queer lives and cultures? From this perspective, does globalization promote the emergence of queer identities and cultures on a global scale?

September 11, 2007 at Muhlenberg College, 7pm in Miller Forum, Moyer Hall. Part of the Muhlenberg College Center for Ethics "Globalization From Above and Below" program, in partnership with the Muhlenberg Gay Straight Alliance. Questions? Email Mark Stein-Stein@muhlenberg.edu or Adrian Shanker - As233422@muhlenberg.edu

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS: every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page at www.uucvpa.org/haven.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level. The summer schedule is now in full swing.

Tennis: Tuesdays at 7:00pm; Sundays at 3:00pm. Email for location. **Volleyball:** Thursdays at 7:00pm in Catasauqua.

Bowling: the 2nd Friday of the month, starting at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown.

Pinochle: the 2nd Saturday of the month, starting at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown.

Racquetball: every Thursday and Saturday, starting at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Allentown.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website.

GLOSS on the web: www.gloss.org, or email: Info@gloss.org.

RIVER RAFTING TRIP

Organized by Rainbow Mountain. If interested - call the number listed below or reply to Info@gloss.org. Sept 28-30: Whitewater Rafting Weekend. Water release scheduled creates excellent whitewater rafting with up to Class 3+ rapids. Theme weekend rates (except for the Lodge) will include the whitewater excursion (all necessary rafting equipment, life jacket, parking, shuttle service to the river and experienced river guides). Balance must be paid two weeks prior. Interested? Call 570-223-8484.

LIST YOUR ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS RESOURCE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator-1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

DAN ANDERS APPOINTED JUDGE

In July, the Pennsylvania State Senate confirmed Governor Rendell's nomination to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas of openly gay attorney Dan Anders. Dan received the unanimous support of both the Senate Judiciary Committee and the entire State Senate.

Dan's excellent (pro-bono) legal work and dedication saved Allentown's Human Relations Ordinance that protects people from employment, housing and public accommodation discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity from both a referendum challenge and a court challenge. VGP sends best wishes and hearty congratulations to Dan Anders!

GAY MEN'S CHORUS

The Lehigh Valley Men's Chorus begins rehearsing on August 28th, for its November 17th concert. The LVGMC meets Tuesdays at 7 PM at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 N. Center St., Bethlehem, PA. Artistic Director J. Clinton Miller invites singers who are tenor or bass voiced to join the LVGMC. For more information, contact the chorus at 610-366-3320 or visit the LVGMC website www.lv GMC.org.

I-LEAD TRAINING

I-LEAD's (mainstream) leadership trainings are famous throughout the state of Pennsylvania for developing hundreds of leaders, many of whom are the new up and coming movers and shakers in local PA governments. I-Lead in conjunction with Harcum College, presents to you...Leadership Associates Degree.

When: Upcoming Dates

What time: from 5pm - 7pm

Where: Casa Guadalupe Community Center, 143 Linden St. (between Ridge and 2nd St), Allentown, (610) 435-9902 ext 107

DIGNITY AT PRIDE

Dignity Philadelphia - GLBT Catholics and Allies, will have a table at the Lehigh Valley Pride Festival Sunday, August 19. Informational brochures will be available at the table.

FROM OMICRON

The Nature Line - A World Premiere Event, Written by J.C. Lee. Directed by Adrian Anchondo, FEATURING Original OTP members: Dina Percia, Christopher Morris and Megan Ridge, OTP Associate Artist: Becca Schneider. As well as special guest appearances from: Diane Wagner, Louise Howard, Abby Roman, Troy Brokenshire, Doug Atkins, and Alex Rice. August 16th - 26th at The Civic Theatre of Allentown, Theatre 514, 527 N. 19th Street, Allentown.

SUPPORT PDN BY SEARCHING THE NET

You can support PA Diversity Network with every computer search at no cost to you. Instead of Google searches, start using Goodsearch.com as your search engine (powered by Yahoo) and choose the charity "Pennsylvania Diversity Network." Every search will give PA Diversity Network and all its programs including the Valley Gay Press, one penny. If 100 people search 2 times a day -- that is \$730 per year!

PA Diversity provides the community with a great amount of support and resources and this is an easy way to support PDN. PA Diversity Network has been set up with Goodsearch for several months. The Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley is also set up with Goodsearch. You can also choose MCLV to receive the pennies from your searches.

PRIDE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley Pride in the Park Festival on Sunday, August 19, 2007 from 12-6pm at Cedar Beach Park in Allentown. Volunteers are needed for all areas, please contact the volunteer coordinator at cchadwick@prideglv.org if you are interested.

PRIDE PAGEANT AUGUST 5

Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley "Queen of Pride Pageant" is on Sunday, August 5 at the Stonewall in Allentown. Doors open at 8pm and show starts at 9pm. All proceeds benefit Pride GLV.

You can find more Pride events by checking out Pride's online calendar at www.prideglv.org.

NEW PRIDE VP

Pride GLV Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Douglas Smith as Vice President. The board has appointed Rob Hopkins as Interim Vice President for the remainder of the year. Rob has been a Pride volunteer for many years and is currently a board member.

4 GLORA

GLORA (the Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Reading and Allentown areas) is a non-profit social group for adult men and women, both singles and couples. GLORA's activities range from potlucks, to game nights, bowling, movie nights, and holiday celebrations. Events are listed in a monthly newsletter that you will receive as a member. Some are family events that include children and some are just for adults. Members of GLORA may host events at their home or at an outdoor location. Hosting events is not mandatory to be a member. Membership: \$10 per household, annually. Web site: <http://glora.1colony.com> email: GLORA@dejazzd.com or write: GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org, e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com. Meeting Dates: Allentown - Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4. Monroe - Sept. 19, Dec. 19. Reading - Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20.

MCCLV BANQUET SCHEDULED

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley's Annual Anniversary Banquet will be on September 29 at the Barrister's Club in Allentown, starting at 6 p.m. All are welcome. For information, contact MCCLV Fellowship Ministry Leader Joleane Ferris at fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org

READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30, PM on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call the Help Lines: 610-967-5219, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading medial center.

Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

MCC HOSTS FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, October 27, Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley will host a Tricky Tray fundraiser. A tricky tray is like basket bingo and all are welcome to take part in this event to raise funds for MCCLV's ministry in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. More details soon in the Valley Gay Press.

SYLVIA COMICS

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons check the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com.

PDN LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS.

August 19 -- PDN will participate in Greater Lehigh Valley Pride's Pride in the Park Festival.

October 13 -- PDN will have a team in the Woman's 5k Race to fight Breast Cancer, and will host a brunch afterward at the PDN offices. All women in the GLBTA community are encouraged to participate. You know you've been meaning to do this for years...Be on our team and we'll make it easy and fun for you to do.

Late October -- Bingo! The Community had a great time at our Bingo event in 2006 and we'll be doing it again in 2007. If you represent a business, please consider donating a Bingo prize.

November 10 -- The PDN Photo Project will be at Reading Area Community College. **November 16, 17, 18** -- PDN Holiday Art Show at the PDN Gallery in Allentown.

Mid December 2007 -- Rainbow Families Christmas Party for GLBTA families with children. This event is co-sponsored by MCCLV and will be held at the Church.

BERKS GAY MEN'S GROUP

Berks Gay Men's Social Group - Come join BGMSG for a variety of social activities for gay men in Berks and surrounding areas. For information or to sign up email: BGMSG@comcast.net. Visit the web site for a complete list of upcoming activities. www.berksbgmsg.com

POOL PARTY! -- The Berks Gay Men's Social Group is hosting its last pool party of the season on August 18. Email BGMSG for more information or to RSVP at BGMSG@comcast.net. New members are welcome. For more information about the group and other activities, please visit the web site: www.berksbgmsg.com

NEPA PRIDE COOK OUT

Pride of Northeast PA Annual Cook OUT is Sunday, August 26th at Kirby Park in Kingston, PA (Rain Date is Sept 9th) For more information visit <http://www.prideofnepa.org/page2/page2.html>. Pride of NEPA is a social GLBTQA group in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

A Member of the Feline Protection Patrol Hears an unkind remark...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

DID I JUST HEAR YOU REFUSE TO ACCOMPANY YOUR CAT TO PERU TO SEE THE LONG-WHISKERED OWLET, THE WORLD'S SMALLEST OWL AND A HOLY GRAIL OF ORNITHOLOGY? AND DID I HEAR YOU ADD: "JUST EAT THE BIRDS IN THE BACKYARD?"

I WAS UP ALL NIGHT DOING MY TAXES. PERHAPS YOU COULD GIVE ME SOME SLACK... JUST THIS ONCE.

Nicole Hollander

4-17

SOOZ VIEWS

By Sue Sneeringer

HERE'S TO MOMS

I was going to comment about the report on The O'Reilly Factor about pink pistol-packing gangs of lesbians supposedly terrorizing certain metropolitan areas of the nation or Pope Benedict taking the Catholic Church even further back to the Middle Ages by asserting the "One True Church" crap again. And, maybe throw in a scolding of Keith Olbermann for his snide aside on Cynthia Nixon's sexuality as a reason why a movie version of "Sex In The City" is now somehow questionable (yeah, even Keith doesn't get that Cynthia Nixon is an ACTOR). But the absurdity of all the above and so much other stuff going out over the airwaves 24/7 renders even me speechless. So, I thought I'd just write about my two Moms instead.

No, I was not raised by a lesbian couple. I don't even think I knew what lesbians were until I did my first play in a community theatre (and then I found out they were everywhere!). I had had clues that such women did exist and perhaps that I might even be one myself but there was no name for it in my vocabulary and certainly no conversation about it in the circles in which I traveled for the first twenty or so years of my life.

I had a regular Mom first, of course. Norma. She raised a bunch of kids and ran a busy house and I never needed anyone else to teach me about how hard such women worked. And while my regular Dad worried that hanging out with theatre people would compromise my morality, I found my second Mom (and mentor) there instead and she not only became mid-wife to my creativity, she gave me an equally golden standard by which to live. That was Elizabeth McLean, "Betty Lou."

Norma turns eighty next week. She survived a really bad fall three years ago and six months of hospitals and rehab and several near death crises and remains a constant source of love and inspiration (with a healthy dose of aggravation on the side!). Betty Lou left this world last November. She also remains a source of love and inspiration and I'd love nothing more than to have her here to nag me about whatever.

Yeah, I know, we're way past Mother's Day but, I sometimes have a hard time coming up with new and interesting ideas for this column, just like Norma used to struggle to find new and interesting ideas for dinner and Betty Lou craved one more crack at DARK OF THE MOON. So, in this oftentimes crazy and absurd world, I'd just like to say thanks to both of my Moms for giving me a center of gravity from which to navigate through life. We all need as many Moms, and Dads, as we can get because it DOES take a village. I miss you, Betty Lou. And Happy Birthday, Norma. I remain devoted daughter to you both!

TOUCHSTONE THEATRE PRESENTS

VALERIE RAE SMITH'S PREMIERE WORK-IN-PROGRESS, BETWEEN TWO CHAIRS, IS A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BETWEEN SEASONS at Touchstone. FOR MORE INFORMATION AT: 717-856-8060.

Touchstone Theatre in Bethlehem, PA www.touchstone.org. Between Two Chairs will run for four performances only, August 23-25 at 8:00 pm and August 26 at 2:00 pm. Doors will open at 7pm. Refreshments will be served. Admission is \$5. For tickets and more information, call Touchstone Theatre at 610-867-1689.

MUHLENBERG SUMMER MUSIC THEATRE

THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES - a delightful musical comedy for children ages 4 - 12 Book and lyrics by Lynn Ahers, Music by Stephen Flaherty. An original musical based on the classic tale by Hans Christian Andersen.

The Emperor's New Clothes: June 27-August 4, Wed-Thu-Fri 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. and Sat 10 am Studio Theatre, Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance. Tickets \$9 General Admission.

Visit the website or call the box office to receive a complete season brochure. The mainstage subscription season of the summer program includes **Nunsense, Fiddler on the Roof, and Pump Boys & Dinettes**. Each performs Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m., with NEW Saturday afternoon performances at 2 p.m. designated as 'Family Day' shows. For these performances only, one youth ticket is offered free for each adult or senior ticket purchased for the same show. These free youth tickets are not available online. Please call or email to reserve Family Day tickets.

SUMMER THEATRE BOX OFFICE INFORMATION -- Tickets are available by calling the Theatre Box Office (484-664-3333) in the Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance on the Muhlenberg College campus or by visiting the website at www.summerbroadway.org. The Box Office is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$9, with a special group rate of \$7 for 15 or more. For information on group sales, please email: boxoffice@muhlenberg.edu.

PUMP BOYS & DINETTES -- Created by John Foley, Mark Hardwick, Debra Monk, Cass Morgan, John Schimmel and Jim Wann. July 25 - August 12 in the Baker Theatre, Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance. Tue through Sat at 8 p.m. Saturday at 2 p.m. (Family Day), Sunday at 2 p.m. Box Office: Call 484.664.3333 or email boxoffice@muhlenberg.edu.

The Pump Boys are good natured gas station attendants with abundant musical talents and down home charm and this is their exuberant tribute to life by the roadside, friendship and home cooking!

PHOTO PROJECT NEARS 200

The award winning PA Diversity Network Photo Project - 150 Same-sex Couples Facing Inequality displays 188 (so far) photos of local same-sex couples that serve to remind the mainstream public of the discrimination and inequality the GLBT community experiences because Pennsylvania and the US Federal government refuse to grant legal recognition of same-sex relationships. 34 new photos were taken at the Reading Pride Festival.

The Photo Project has both a full set of labeled photos that are projected on a screen and a full set of framed labeled photos.

The framed Photo Project has already been exhibited at: Theatre Outlet, the PDN Gallery, Northampton Community College (viewed by 1000s of people), Air Products and Chemicals, Muhlenberg College, PPL, Civic Theatre, Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley, Reading's Stirling Hotel and was included in a TV News broadcast interview about NJ Civil Unions. The Project is currently on exhibit at Metropolitan Community Church LV in Allentown and will be in Berks County in November at Reading Area Community College.

To learn more about the project, to learn about where it will be shown next and to see pictures of the venues in which it has been exhibited, see www.padiversity.org.

If you and your same-sex partner would like to participate in the project, project creator Liz Bradbury will be taking photographs at the Pride in the Park Festival on August 19 in the PADiversity Network booth.

6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- see **FACT**
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksgmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

CUUPS -- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uucv_cuups@yahoo.com.

Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GaydarMagazine -- www.gaydarmagazine.com
GLEE at Air Products

GLISN - at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW- at PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELPI23 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays.. Interweave -UUCLV@yahoo.com

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org>

610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHallenman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com, <http://www.mccclv.org> 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC - Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at CedarCrestCollege

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

PARENTS- GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519 Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

AUGUST 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 TEJAS SPECTRUM	2 RAA GLOSS	3 19th St. Movie	4 WDIY GLOSS
Pride	6 RAA	7 LVGMC LV PFLAG	8 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	9 RAA GLOSS	10 19th St. Movie	11 WDIY GLOSS
Pagant	13 RAA	14 LVGMC R PFLAG	15 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	16 GLOSS Omicron	17 19th St. Movie	18 WDIY GLOSS
12 WDIY GLOSS						
19 GLV Pride	20 Interweave RAA	21 LVGMC	22 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	23 RAA GLOSS	24 19th St. Movie	25 WDIY GLOSS
26 GLOSS HMFF	27 MCC Omicron	28 LVGMC	29 HAVEN SPECTRUM	30 GLOSS RAA	31 19th St. Movie	

SEPTEMBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 GLOSS
						WDIY
2 GLOSS HMFF	3 RAA	4 LV PFLAG	5 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	6 GLOSS RAA	7 19th St. Movie	8 WDIY
MCC						
10 RAA		11 LVGMC	12 HAVEN SPECTRUM	13 RAA GLOSS	14 19th St. Movie	15 GLOSS WDIY
FACT Summer Games						
16 GLOSS	17 RAA	18 R PFLAG	19 M PFLAG	20 RAA GLOSS	21	22 GLOSS WDIY
23 GLOSS	24 RAA	25 LVGMC	26 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	27 GLOSS RAA	28	29 GLOSS
30 UUCV						

OCTOBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA	2 LV PFLAG	3 SPECTRUM	4 RAA GLOSS	5	6 GLOSS
7 WDIY	8	9 LVGMC	10 SPECTRUM	11 RAA	12	13 WDIY
MCC						
14 GLOSS HMFF	15 RAA	16 R PFLAG	17 HAVEN M PFLAG	18 GLOSS RAA	19 WDIY GLOSS	
MCC						
20 GLOSS HMFF	21 RAA	22	23 TEJAS	24 RAA GLOSS	25	26
MCC						
27 WDIY	28	29 LVGMC	30 TEJAS	31 RAA GLOSS		
MCC						

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>

Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpsta/lvpsa/whatsa.htm
Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donniarluca@msn.com

Ren - Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Reading P-FLAG - 610-967-5219

Reading Pride - Festival in Reading

www.readingpridecelebration.org

Safe Space - At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137

Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. Rev. Tom Cormier

T.O. - Theatre Outlet, Allentown, 610-820-9270.

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@pdiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902

Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.pdiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association, Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm, 8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
BERKS GSA - 2ND MONS
LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
HAZELTON PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES
GLOSS TENNIS - TUES & SUNS
MCCLV TEJAS WOMANS GRP - WEDS
LV HAVEN - WEDS

READING SPECTRUM - WEDS
MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS
JAN MARJUN SEPT DEC ONLY
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL THURS
GLOSS RAY - 1ST THURS & SAT
GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI
GLOSS PINOCCHIO - 2ND SAT
RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS
MCCLV MENS GRP - SUN

AUG 1-4 - MUHLENBERG PLAY
AUG 1-12 - MUHLENBERG PLAY
AUG 4-12 - 19TH STREET FILM
AUG 5 - LV GSA - PFLAG
AUG 11 - PICNIC@KNOBELS
AUG 11-19 - 19TH STREET FILM
AUG 16 - 26 - OMICRON @ TO
AUG 18 - MCCLV DRAG BENEFIT
AUG 18-26 - 19TH STREET FILM
AUG 19 - GLV PRIDE
AUG 23-25 - TOUCHSTONE
AUG 25-27 - 19TH STREET FILM
AUG 26 - NEPA PRIDE COOKOUT
SEPT 4 - HAZELTON PFLAG
SEPT 4-9 - 19TH STREET FILM
SEPT 7-8 - MCCLV REGIONAL MTG
SEPT 8-15 - 19TH STREET FILM
SEPT 9 - FACT SUMMER GAMES
SEPT 11 - MUHLENBERG COLLEGE
SEPT 28-30 - RIVER RAFTING
SEPT 29 - MCCLV BANQUET
SEPT 30 - MCCLV 23RD ANNIV
OCT 7 - FACT AIDS WALK
OCT 9 - HIP HOP @ MUHLENBERG
OCT 27 - MCCLV TRICKY TRAY
NOV 16-18 - PORN ART SHOW
NOV 17 - LVGMC CONCERT

IMPORTANT SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH LV MCCLV'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR STARTS THIS SUMMER

MCCLV is pleased to announce its first children's choir. Rehearsals are on Sundays right after MCCLV's morning worship service, at approximately 12 noon. There are sing-a-long CD's available for the children to learn about 10 songs including "Jesus Loves Me" and "Jesus Loves The Little Children." Ages for the choir are 2-13 yrs. Parent supervision is requested. All children welcome. For more information, please email Stephanie O'Donnell at marketing.ministry@mcclv.org

MCCLV HOSTS REGIONAL CHURCH GATHERING

On September 7 and 8 Metropolitan Community Church will be hosting a regional church gathering. This is an opportunity to connect with people from MCCs around the northeast region. Friday will be an evening of music and prayer. Saturday will begin with worship and will then break into three workshops: 1) Breaking the Church Growth Barriers 2) Conflict Mediation - setting up effective Conflict Resolution Teams within the local church. 3) The Many Faces of Spirituality. Advance Registration required, all are welcome. Contact MCCLV for more information.

MCCLV ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley continues its celebration of its 23rd year of ministry in the Lehigh Valley on Sunday, September 30. At the 10:30 a.m. worship service on September 30, MCCLV's B.A.S.I.C. will be ministering with song. B.A.S.I.C. is the name of MCCLV's choir, "Brothers and Sisters in Christ" and is led by Brian Jones. Sunday, October 7th is "Anniversary Sunday" and MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy will be preaching on the church's past, present and future with a sermon titled "So Great A Cloud Of Witnesses."

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

It's that time again! Yes, the end of summer is approaching, and with it, the last hurrahs to the shore for the year. Yes, the air conditioners (and our ozone) will get a break. Yes, MusikFest and the Allentown Fair are on their way. And yes, repeats are all over the television. I hate repeats. But, that's not what I'm talking about.

The "time" I refer to is History Lesson Time. With Pride in the Park right around the corner (Sunday, August 19th) it seems the GLBT community is, to quote U2, moving in mysterious ways. Over the past few years organizers for many Pride organizations, including NYC, are reporting decreased volunteers, especially among the younger queers. What's up?

Some observers speculate there is a growing apathy in the community toward Pride events. I don't think this is the case. In 2005 close to 6000 people attended Pride in the Park. That doesn't sound like people don't care. Closer to the truth, I think, is that people, especially young people, are not educated as to why we have Pride celebrations. I think they see it as a party. A place to meet friends, hook up and have some drinks. I doubt if 2 out of 10 young gays, and probably a good number of older gays, could even cite the Stonewall Riots of June 1969 as the reason NYC has their Pride Festival the last week of June every year. And fewer still probably know of the Mattachine Society and the peaceful demonstrations that pre-date Stonewall, as professional business men and women marched with signs that demanded "Equal Rights for Homosexuals".

I'm not saying the current generation of gays has it too easy. But being brought up with Ellen, Will & Grace, Queer as Folk, The L Word and an aisle full of gay titles at Blockbuster, it may seem that things have always been this open and the world has always been this accepting. It hasn't. Our struggle for equality is much too intricate and complicated to be summed up in this column, but here's a primer.

It wasn't until the late 1980's that we had anything close to a realistic depiction of gays and lesbians on TV or in the movies. Until that time gays and lesbians were the comic relief, homicidal, or suicidal. The gays at the New York Bar Stonewall fought back because it was illegal for them to be in a gay establishment. The police took hush money from corrupt organized crime bar owners to stay open and serve to gays, gladly taking our cash, but the bar owners looked the other way when gays were routinely arrested, fined and physically abused by the same police.

After another routine police rousting the evening of June 29th, some gays fought back rather than submitting to arrest for no reason. Ultimately they barricaded the Stonewalls doors from the outside, trapping police inside. Riots began. Drag queens ripped parking meters from the sidewalk and used them as battering rams against the police. This should be taught in high school history classes alongside any other civil rights movements.

Since it's not taught in school, we forget and that is the last thing we ought to do. It is said, "if we forget the past, we are destined to relive it". The goal **was** to make it easier and to gain equal rights. We still have so much more work to do. Marriage rights, to serve openly in the military, housing, adoption, employment, inheritance, etc. Google Stonewall Riots, Mattachine Society, and find out about your history. Before we have to repeat it. I hate repeats.



by Earl and Donnie Snyder

RAINBOW FAMILY PRIDE

As our son Lucas gets older he is getting a better idea of what makes up a family. He sees that some kids have a mom and a dad, some have two moms, and some have two dads like he does. Sometimes though Lucas refers to "my mommy" in his three-year-old conversations. We are not exactly sure whom he is picturing in his mind as his mommy, because when we ask him who it is, he doesn't elaborate. Sometimes he refers to his friend Chase's mommy as his own. He will soon realize the full concept and know that he doesn't have a mommy in his immediate family. It is going to be our job to make him feel that he is real lucky to have two dads. So far we are able to accomplish that more with actions than words, but ultimately we will have some heavy discussions with him in the future.

If we are ever in a pinch, we do have a copy of the movie, Mommie Dearest to play for him. It's guaranteed he won't be asking about a mommy after that one. Although, some good can be said for Ms. Crawford. She kept a very clean house such that Christina never suffered from allergies, except that time Joan spread the Comet cleanser all over the floor and in Christina's hair...but anyway...

Lucas is getting to know quite a few other families like his own and the more of them he does get to know, the more secure he will be with his own family make up. More and more same-sex couples with children have been coming to Metropolitan Community Church every week. The church has had events for those children and has started a children's choir as well. Participating with other children like himself allows him to find his own peer group and that gives him some additional security in his life.

In Liz's last column, we read that a Lutheran organization in the Berks County area is just beginning to spend some money on a study to find out whether or not GLBT families may have any special needs or have a need for any special support groups. We have found even without an extensive expensive study, that the answer is "yes". And the main need is to provide peer groups for the parents and the children. We found this just from talking with other families like our own. Just about all had an interest. For that reason we started the Rainbow Families group.

The Rainbow Families group is proudly sponsored by PA Diversity Network and is a wonderful group for GLBT families with children, providing both fun social activities and support. Some past activities included a picnic, a day at the pool, the Lehigh Valley Zoo, and an Easter egg hunt at MCCLV. There will be more activities and events planned for the future. Each time, allowing GLBT families to interact, providing fun for the children and information swapping for the parents, and lots of family pride. If any families are interested in becoming part of the Rainbow Families, contact us at our email address above for more information, even if you just want to borrow the "Mommie Dearest" DVD.



READ MORE IN THE
RAINBOW FAMILIES SECTION
OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S
WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.

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RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, My partner and I have funded our IRA accounts, as best as we could, since the program began. It has not been easy, thru the years. I have had difficult times in maintaining steady employment, but diligently, I made sure that when the limit was \$2,000, I funded it with \$2,000. As the tax laws continued to change over the years, I have increased to \$3,000 and then \$4,000. I am under the age of 50 and therefore, not eligible for the current catch-up provision of \$5,000 maximum. During this time, my IRA account values total almost \$75,000. I plan on working for another 20 years. At this time, should I consider converting my Traditional IRA's into Roth Conversion IRA's? I currently earn \$42,000 a year. **With regards, Forward Looking Investor**

Dear FLI, The issue of converting to a Roth Conversion IRA is not always easy to quantify. You will need to weigh your options.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER: Would you like your money to be transferred to your partner or children, if you have any, income tax free? When will you be withdrawing money from the account, if ever? Have you or your company funded a 401(k), 403(b), SEP, Simple IRA or any other retirement entity? What other retirement options do you have available? Billions of dollars will be transferring from one generation to another in the upcoming years. Do you anticipate an inheritance? What are the expected tax brackets for the future? The answers to these questions need to be reviewed before making a decision.

Assuming your adjustable gross income is under \$110,000 and that you are not receiving excessive passive income from trusts, royalties or rental properties, you may be a candidate for a Roth Conversion IRA. Please discuss the overall issue with a competent tax person, CPA or advisor. You will need to focus on the long term with these advisors. Not here and now. A benefit of the conversion is that, should the recipient maintain the account as a Roth Conversion IRA, they to, will not pay income taxes on the withdrawals at the age of 59 1/2, however, they must maintain a Roth IRA or Conversion IRA for a minimum of 5 years, or the gains may be taxable. This does not mean, that you do not have access to these funds prior to 59 1/2, because you certainly do. It is a matter of whether you will have to pay Uncle Sam any tax money at withdrawal.

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor for Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. located at 1045 S Cedar Crest Blvd Allentown. E-mail denise.m.mckelvey@ampf.com Phone 610.439.7000

HIP HOP: BEYOND BEATS AND RHYMES

A documentary by Byron Hurt with a Panel discussion to follow. Oct. 9 - 6:15pm - Muhlenberg Recital Hall. Cosponsored by: Muhlenberg GSA, Black Students Association, and the Office of Multicultural Life. Open to the public: Contact: Adrian-As233422@muhsenberglife.edu for more information.

Filmmaker Byron Hurt, a life-long hip-hop fan, was watching rap music videos on BET when he realized that each video was nearly identical. Guys in fancy cars threw money at the camera while scantily clad women danced in the background. As he discovered how stereotypical rap videos had become, Hurt, a former college quarterback turned activist, decided to make a film about the gender politics of hip-hop, the music and the culture that he grew up with. "The more I grew and the more I learned about sexism and violence and homophobia, the more those lyrics became unacceptable to me," he says. "And I began to become more conflicted about the music that I loved." The result is HIP-HOP: Beyond Beats and Rhymes, a riveting documentary that tackles issues of masculinity, sexism, violence and homophobia in today's hip-hop culture.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

FACT SUMMER GAMES

FACT'S 22nd. Annual Summer Games, Sunday, September 9th., Rainbow Mountain Resort, East Stroudsburg. Tickets \$20.00 - \$15.00 in advance. Opening Ceremonies at 12:30 P.M.

Featuring The AIDS Quilt, Provided by the Names Project. Team competition, lots of entertainment; with Tinsel Garland & Brian Marks as co-hosts for the day. Your entrance ticket includes; lunch & soda, also hot dogs as long as they last. The entertainment all day long on the Tennis Court Cabaret is donated so that all proceeds from the day go to individuals with HIV/AIDS either infected or affected by this horrible disease. FACT's goal this year is to exceed last year's goal of \$20,000.

There will be vendors, social service agencies, and community groups providing information and selling items for the crowd to purchase and educate themselves.

Tickets \$15.00, if you buy in advance. Your attending this year's event will surely go to help someone, pay their rent, get needed eyeglasses, medications, personal care items, and sadly still too many funerals. For more information Call FACT at 610-820-5519 or visit www.factlv.org.

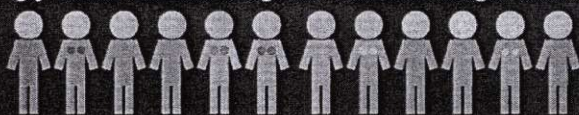
MCCLV DRAG SHOW BENEFIT

August 18 from 6 until 8 p.m. Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley will be hosting a Drag Show to celebrate Lehigh Valley Pride! For details, contact MCCLV-- Contact Fellowship Ministry Leader Joleane Ferris at: fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org All are welcome and more performers welcome! Proceeds to benefit MCCLV.

We Are a *Family* at Knoebel's Grove

PRIDE Picnic

gay • lesbian • bisexual • transgender • transexual • straight • allies



Knoebel's Grove Amusement Park
Elysburg PA

13th Annual PRIDE PICNIC at Knoebels Grove
Saturday August 11th 2007
Pavilion T10

Covered dish lunch and raffle at 3pm

Registration begins at 11:00am

Join us for the meal and/or the day

Bring a covered dish to share, Bar B Que,

Utensils & Tableware will be provided

Questions and directions:

Rick and Russ - kikosdad@psd.net

Mike and Mike - 717-572-9111

Volunteers Needed Day Of Event

REMINDER: Pride Picnic is NOT Sponsored by Knoebels Grove

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)

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Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown

19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown

Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

(UUCV) -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBT Youth Group at UUCV

Theatre Outlet, 930 N. 4th St. Allentown

10 Libraries in Berks County

Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading

Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County),

Reading Community Theatre -

11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading

Allen HS GSA, Reading HS GSA, Gov Mifflin HS GSA

Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network

Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center

Reading Area Community College GSA

48 S. 4th St., Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown

Fountainhead Books -- 641 Penn Ave. West Reading

Dreamscape Comics -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

The Woods Campground

Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St, Reading

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month. PDN's membership cycle begins in January. Circulation: 1300-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500.

To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation or gender identity of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Name/s _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

☐ Senior dues (over 65) \$5
☐ Individual dues \$15
☐ Family dues \$20

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN. Additional contribution
 Make checks payable to PDN. ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002**

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

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TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**

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**PAY YOUR 2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW
AND THEY WILL BE GOOD THROUGH ALL OF
2008!** Membership to PA Diversity Network, which
brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just
\$15 for an individual membership and \$20 for a family
membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven
organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley
and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley
Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web
Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 200 Same-sex Couples
and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual
instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does
presentations to organizations, educational institutions
and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the
community entertaining and fun activities like special
concert events, art shows, community action
opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other
organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on
contributions and memberships from people like you.
Please become a 2008 member of PDN and further
support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax
deductible organization.

**YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR PDN
DUES ON LINE! JUST GO TO
"MEMBERSHIP" AT
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG
IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.**

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and
organizations to get their information to hundreds of
people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If
you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you
would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network
(info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-
5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about
your group.

19TH STREET FILMS THEATRE 514, 610-432-8943

All films play in the 19th Street Theatre (the big one), 527
N. 19th Street. The next series will begin in the 19th Street
Theatre immediately after this one ends. This series is
sponsored by The Morning Call and Air Products. The
series includes -- **Once:** August 4-12, **Paris Je T'Aime:**
August 11-19, **Pierpoint:** August 18-26, **Ten Canoes:**
August 25-27, **My Best Friend:** September 4-9, **Moliere:**
September 8-15. More information is posted on the Civic/
19th Street web site, at <http://www.civictheatre.com/film>.

HAZLETON PFLAG

New Hazleton PFLAG Chapter -- Meets the first Tuesday
of each month, Hazleton YM/YWCA at 75 South Church
Street., Hazleton. 7:00pm. Timothy Hibbler, President.
Info: 570-459-0385, pflaghazleton@yahoo.com. The
Hazleton Chapter was started in March of 2007 and is a
support group for GLBT people, their families and friends.
This organization also participates in social outings that
include all members and their families and friends.



LIZ OUT LOUD © 11

By Liz Bradbury

SO YOU WANT TO GET A NEW JERSEY CIVIL UNION? - HERE'S ONE WAY HOW.

If you live in PA you can get a NJ civil union (CU). Though there's no question that civil union rights are not equal to civil marriage rights, it's the most legal recognition we can get right now. You will get no rights from PA, but if one of you works in NJ, it could mean spousal health benefits.

PDN Photo Project couple Melissa Emes and Lillian Bailey just got a CU in New Jersey. They want to pass along this information because they were so pleased with the municipal offices and the minister they found.

#1 Getting the license: Melissa and Lillian first tried to get information in Lambertville, NJ. You'd think that would be easy, huh? ...right over the river from New Hope. But according to Melissa and Lillian, they got little response. After many attempts, they decided to go north. They called the Township of Kingwood Municipal Building in Baptistown (don't let the name scare you).

Township of Kingwood Clerk Mary MacConnell and Deputy Clerk Cindy Brown gave them all the information and help they needed to get the license. I called them for this article as well and had a great conversation with them, they are obviously willing to be supportive.

#2 Having the legal ceremony performed: Melissa and Lillian choose to call Rev. Bob Janis Dillon of the First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hunterdon County in Baptistown to do the ceremony (you can have a mayor, deputy mayor, judge or any qualified religious official do the CU ceremony). Melissa and Lillian say that Rev. Dillon was very supportive. They couldn't have been happier with his performance of their ceremony.

****For the license:** The license costs \$28. You each must have two IDs. Photo IDs and birth certificates are best. You must have a witness with you who is over 18 and has known you for more than 6 months. The witness should have ID as well. If you have been legally married or civil unioned before - you must have proof of divorce or civil union dissolution.

****For the ceremony:** After you have the license you have to wait at least 72 hours to have the actual ceremony. Call the official (rev., judge, mayor, etc.) beforehand to set up a date and time and to learn his or her fee. The CU certificate will have to be filed at the municipal office after the ceremony. You should get a copy of it from the municipal office for your records. Copies may cost a small fee.

Remember that a civil union is a very serious legal contract with many legal responsibilities. If you break up, you cannot get a civil union or get married to anyone else unless you go through divorce proceedings. If one of you is not a US citizen, do not get a civil union unless you speak with an immigration attorney acquainted with GLBT issues, first.

This article and further information about NJ CUs will be posted on www.padiversity.org, soon. Or call the GLBT Infoline (610-HELP-123) if you have more questions.

License Contact Information:

Township Clerk Mary E. MacConnell
Township Deputy Clerk Cindy Brown
Township of Kingwood Municipal Building
Corner of Route 519 and Oak Grove Rd. (PO Box 199)
Baptistown, NJ 08803-0199 Baptistown is 3 miles east of Frenchtown.
Phone: 908-996-4276 Fax: 908-996-7753

Ceremony Contact Information:

Rev. Bob Janis Dillon
First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hunterdon County
(Old Stone Church)
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TRISH'S COLUMN ©

By Patricia Sullivan

VGP IN BERKS COUNTY LIBRARIES

We gave 23 Berks County libraries free copies of the Valley Gay Press for one year, compliments of PDN, with the aid of a small grant from Reading PFLAG through the Berks County Community Foundation's Diversity Alliance Fund.

Now that the grant money is up, we needed to get feedback and determine how many libraries wanted to continue to receive the VGP. So, I sent a five question check-off survey to each library. I got 14 responses. Eleven librarians returned the questionnaire, one emailed her comments and two talked to me during my follow-up phone calls. The rest didn't return the questionnaire or my call.

Three libraries, Sinking Spring, Bernville and Fleetwood said they did not display the VGP at all. It was a Board of Trustees decision. Two of these vaguely suggested that if they displayed the VGP, then they would have to display every group's literature. Of course that's a weak argument - nothing requires them to display anyone's lit. Regardless, the VGP is no more controversial than, say, the New York Times, and every library carries that. In fact, the VGP is the only local GLBT paper in Berks County that has information about local Berks services and events. So it was particularly disturbing that some librarians from these sites reported that when they received papers each month they destroyed them. It's hard not to see destroying the only local paper supporting a specific minority group as discriminatory (at best).

Though Robesonia, West Lawn/Wyomissing and the South 5th Street Reading libraries have been displaying the VGPs we sent, they asked us not to send them any more. S. 5th St. Reading's request was a little disturbing because they only answered three questions and no library official signed the form (all other forms were signed with a librarian's name). Robesonia reported that they received a negative comment about the lay out of the paper (not the content). West Lawn/Wyomissing Hills and Reading responded that they had received "no feedback." Mifflin Library in Shillington reported as negative feedback that a volunteer said she was surprised that the library had the paper, but Mifflin asked that we continue to send one paper a month. Over the last year we got positive feedback directly from Berks GLBTA library patrons about VGPs they found in their libraries. We also received several memberships from individuals who filled out the membership form in the VGP that they found at their library.

All in all the result of sending the VGP to Berks libraries, and our follow up survey was pretty good. It's tricky to get libraries to display GLBT literature (we haven't been successful in Lehigh or Northampton County at all.) Now, at least ten Berks County libraries will continue to receive the VGP (Boone, Brandywine, Exeter, Hamburg, Louisa Gosner, Mifflin, Reading NE, Spring Township, Wernersville and Womelsdorf). Hamburg initially indicated that they did not want to continue receiving the VGP, but discovered one person read the paper and reconsidered.

Getting information to local GLBTA people is a way to strengthen and vitalize the community. You can help to do this. Just go to the reference desk at your local library and ask for the Valley Gay Press. If they have it, thank them. If they don't have it, ask them to get it. Let us know what library you've asked and what they said. Just one person asking could make a difference. Contact me at: psullivan@padiversity.org or 610-432-5449.



HOW TO GET A NEW JERSEY CIVIL UNION



POP QUIZ 12

1. What's the most recent US State to create statewide (limited) domestic partner benefits? A. Michigan B. Delaware C. Maryland D. Washington
2. Who hosted the 2007 Gay Porn Awards?
3. In Kathy Griffin's season final show she received an award from: A. Irish American Magazine B. Emmy C. E! D. Left Coast Comedy
4. Kathy Griffin gave out cash on the street to low income single mothers. Star Magazine sent a reporter to cover it, but the reporter: A. she kept calling Kathy, Kathy Lee. B. ...'s camera battery ran down. C. had to buy a disposable camera. D. didn't know who Kathy was.
5. When Kathy Griffin went to hang out with gay icon Gram Norton in England, he: A. dissed her. B. was great with her.
6. A bipartisan state-government committee in ____ is considering upgrading their current civil union law to full marriage equality. A. VT B. NJ C. CT D. NH
7. Which was the first Simpsons episode rated TV-14 "viewer discretion advised"? The one where: A. Principal Skinner chops up Springfield Elementary Students for lunch meat B. Milhouse's parents divorce. C. Homer goes on a hallucinogenic drug trip, guided by coyote spirit Johnny Cash. D. Patty marries Veronica.
8. As a child, Marge's sister Patty had a poster of over her bed. A. Farrah Fawcett from "Charlie's Angels" B. Lindsay Wagner from "The Bionic Woman" C. Miss Hathaway (Nancy Kulp) from "The Beverly Hillbillies" D. Endora (Agnes Moorehead) from "Bewitched"
9. Which Sex in the City star has come just out as a lesbian? A. Sarah Jessica Parker B. Cynthia Nixon C. Kim Cattrall D. Kristin Davis
10. Cynthia Nixon played: A. Carrie B. Samantha C. Miranda D. Charlotte

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Rainbow Families

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater

19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Hashkalah

The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

United Friends School Quakertown

LV Transsexual Coalition

Lehigh Valley Transmen

Lehigh Valley Transmen

Lehigh Valley Transmen

Lehigh Valley Transmen

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Contact VGP to list your organization

QUOTE #1

"I'm pretty sure forcing the gays to watch an Adam Sandler movie is yet another act of hate." -- a blogger commenting on GLAAD's apparent endorsement after GLAAD members watched the Chuck and Larry Movie twice.

QUOTE #2

"In a sad and bizarre twist, the men competing for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination act as if the contest is over who can show the most hostility to gay rights." --Columnist Deb Price, writing in the Detroit News

QUOTE #3

"Be very, very careful and seek legal advice before seeking a domestic partnership," said Lara Schwartz, the legal director for the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, D.C. Because immigration law does not recognize same-sex couples, an American citizen would not be able to sponsor his or her partner if her or she is on a temporary visa, and in some cases registering for a domestic partnership could jeopardize a foreign national's status.

QUOTE #4

"Ending hate crimes and protecting all Americans equally does not 'persecute' those who hold differing views on race, gender identity, ability or sexual orientation, as claimed by Carrie Gordon Earl of Focus on the Family." -- Rev. Elder Nancy L. Wilson and Rev. Elder Arlene Ackerman of MCC

QUOTE #5

"I think now most Vermonters would acknowledge it hasn't impacted their families in any way, shape or form," -- Vermont Senate President Pro Tempore Peter Shumlin, who says he supports marriage equality after seeing both civil unions and marriage in practice, even though he voted against the 2000 bill for VT civil unions.

HOW TO GET A NEW JERSEY CIVIL UNION? SEE PAGE 7.

QUOTE #6

"Like her father, Yolanda King fought for racial and economic justice and challenged America to face up to these scourges. Like her mother, she was an unwavering voice for equality and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. We will always celebrate her life and cherish her memory." --Matt Foreman, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Distelfink ©/07 by Ruby Zebu 'Dis's New Squeeze.

Oh Tony T, you were GRRRRRRRRreat last night! You are such a Tiger! And breakfast was ... Stay tuned to see if Dis can manage... Cereal monogamy!



VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" by J.K. Rowling, Arthur A. Levine Books, \$34.99 (but most places \$17.99)

I was all set to read this book for a review in time for the Aug-Sept VGP. I especially ordered it to be delivered right to our house on the day it was released. And it came right on time. The trouble was that we had two ten-year-old boys visiting us for four days. I read them the first two chapters, and I was looking forward to reading the rest of the book. Here's the glitch though. One of the kids, the one who had already read the first six Potter books snagged my copy and wouldn't give it back! He read 200 pages that day and I realized I wasn't going to get to read it unless we bought him his own copy. So we did and he'd nearly reached the end of the 759 page book 2 1/2 days later when he left for home. I finished my copy the next day. In a nut shell, it was a great read.

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